

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (previously presented) A method for maintaining confidentiality of personal information during E-commerce transactions comprising the steps of:

compiling a profile of personal information within an electronic depository for at least a first party to an E-commerce transaction;

providing said first party a unique transaction identifier (TID) linked to said profile for use during said E-commerce transaction; and

in response to said first party providing said TID to a second party to said E-commerce transaction, completing said transaction utilizing said electronic depository without said second party receiving at least a portion of said personal information of said first party; and

wherein, when said transaction requires a transfer of an item from the second party to the first party, said completing step includes:

assigning a security routing identifier (SRID) for utilization by said second party to identify a shipment of said item by a shipping service affiliated with said electronic depository, wherein the shipping service is independent of said second party and is utilized to complete said transfer of said item to an address of said first party, and wherein said SRID is initially provided to the second party, who forwards the item along with said SRID and said TID to the depository, wherein the second party does not receive a shipping address of the first party;

receiving said transaction identifier along with said security routing identifier at said depository; and

forwarding at least an address portion of said profile associated with said TID to said shipping service along with said SRID, wherein said shipping service receives the item from said second party tagged with only said SRID and said TID for identification purposes and subsequently sends said item to said first party utilizing at least said address portion of the profile.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first party is a buyer and said second party is a merchant having a web server for initiating E-commerce transactions, and said

completing step further includes the step of locating said transaction identifier in said electronic depository.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein said receiving step includes the step of automatically notifying said buyer of a receipt of said transaction information.

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein said product for said transaction is electronic and said receiving step further includes the step of electronically receiving said product at said depository and then transmitting said product to said buyer.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of providing a unique transaction identifier comprises the step of providing a credit card number.

7. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said second party is provided a unique second-party TID, said method further comprising the steps of completing said E-commerce transaction on a server of said electronic depository wherein said transaction is completed on said server without said first party and said second party receiving any of said personal information of the other party.

8. (previously presented) A client-based method for maintaining confidentiality of personal information during E-commerce transactions comprising the steps of:

creating a profile of personal information within an electronic depository for at least a first party to an E-commerce transaction, wherein said first party is provided a unique transaction identifier (TID) linked to said profile for use during said E-commerce transaction in place of said personal information;

enabling said first party to select whether or not to provide said TID in lieu of personal information to said second party; and

in response to said first party providing said transaction identifier to a second party to said E-commerce transaction, storing information related to said E-commerce transaction at said

electronic depository, wherein said transaction is completed by said electronic depository without said second party receiving any of said personal information of the first party.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein said enabling step further comprises the step of providing a web browser application having a graphical user interface (GUI) on an Internet access system of said client, wherein said GUI provides a plurality of selectable options for said first party including utilizing a transaction identifier to complete said E-commerce transaction.

11-17. (canceled)